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FARM TYPES IN NEBRASKA

R. R. SPAFFORD. **Farm Types in Nebraska as Determined by Climate, Soil, and Economic Factors.** *Agric. Exper. Sta. Research Bull. No. 15.* Lincoln, Neb., 1919.

Type areas for study in this bulletin are based primarily on temperature and rainfall and secondarily on soils. "Considered on any large geographical scale," says the author, "soil effects are often submerged by climate. The reverse is true in comparatively small areas of agricultural land. Here variations in soil often have sufficient range to outweigh the comparatively small range of climatic variations." Annual crop groups are largely limited by temperature. They fall into three main groups: (1) fall or winter, (2) spring, and (3) summer annuals. Winter annuals are seeded in the winter, spring annuals are seeded in late winter or early spring, and summer annuals are seeded in late spring or early summer.

The unit for crop temperature is the *month-degree.* This is determined by adding the total normal mean monthly temperatures above freezing and subtracting from this sum the product obtained by multiplying 32 by the number of months having mean monthly temperatures below freezing. In Nebraska the crop group areas, whether spring-summer, winter-spring, etc., show a general east-west grouping and vary from south to north roughly with the insolation. The comparative uniformity of altitude and other secondary climatic factors in this state makes the grouping relatively simple.

Rainfall in Nebraska decreases from 32 inches in the east to 16 inches in the extreme west. It is found that the size of farms increases with decrease of rainfall; for low rainfall produces low crop yields and short pastures, and larger acreages are therefore necessary to provide yields equal to those of eastern Nebraska. Thus in the eastern counties the average farm varies in size from 171 to 229 acres, while in the High Plains of the extreme western part the farms average 1,129 acres; in the western Sand Hills Region, which is both dry and sandy, the farms average 1,781 acres.

Mr. Spafford, who is now a member of the U. S. Bureau of Farm Management, has produced an interesting and valuable study of the relations of geographic factors to rural economics and sociology, a study which might well be followed in other states. Despite the title, very little attention is given to soils, and they are not described when mentioned; a general soil map of the state would be very useful. The bulletin is "meaty," and in places close attention is necessary to follow the author; but the numerous graphs are of much aid in presenting many facts in condensed form. Although the treatment is not formally geographical, this bulletin, not only in its subject matter but also in the method of approach to the problems, is a valuable contribution to geography.

F. V. EMERSON (deceased)

A PRIMER OF TROPICAL HYGIENE

J. W. RITCHE AND M. A. PURCELL. **Sanitation and Hygiene for the Tropics.** With an introduction by D. P. Barrows. xi and 434 pp.; diagrs., ills., index. World Book Co., Yonkers, 1918. $1.00. 7½ x 5½ inches.

No more beneficent work can be done in the public schools than to teach well the laws of health and sanitation. In a tropical country the work is doubly needed. This volume was written primarily to conserve health and to decrease illness in the Philippine Islands. In consequence, its illustrations are drawn largely from the Islands, and it lays particular emphasis on diseases which are endemic there—malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, cholera, and smallpox. The volume is divided into two sections. Book I unfolds for the pupils of the Philippine schools the germ theory of the various diseases with special directions as to the way to avoid contagion. It is a book of first aid and simple treatments, simply stated and carefully and effectively illustrated. Book II is a treatment of physiology and hygiene, an appeal through the knowledge of the body and its functions for the proper use and care of it. The entire treatment is well adapted for school use, and the authors are to be congratulated on their success in organizing and presenting so much valuable material interestingly enough for immature minds. Editions of this same book adapted to the United States proper have been issued under the titles of Primer of Sanitation, Primer of Hygiene, and Primer of Physiology.

ROBERT M. BROWN